

(November 18, 1912.)

## Northern Ontario.

By THE HONORABLE W. H. HEARST, K.C., M.P.P.\*

AT a regular luncheon of the Club on the 18th November, Mr. Hearst said:

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Canadian Club*,—I am sure that I feel highly honored indeed in having the great privilege of addressing the Canadian Club in this city, a Club that has already done so much for Canadian sentiment and for national life, and that I believe is destined to do very much more, not only in the elevation of its ideals of national life, but for the general development of Canada.

The subject I have chosen for the few remarks I shall make this afternoon is perhaps not in line with those you generally have treated here, but I trust it will prove not uninteresting to you, because I believe the heritage we have in the northern portion of this province is of supreme importance, not only to the Province of Ontario, but to the Dominion of Canada, and to the whole British Empire, of which we form an important part. Therefore, I hope you will bear with me while I give you some statistics as to the magnitude of Northern Ontario, its areas, its resources and the possibilities of its future.

Let us look for a moment at the size of this Province of Ontario. Prior to the addition of the District of Patricia, Ontario contained 260,862 square miles. The District of Patricia contains 157,400 square miles, equal to over 60 per cent. of the former area of Ontario. This makes a total present area of the province of 418,262 square miles, making the Province of Ontario the largest province in the whole Dominion except Quebec, the Province of British Columbia coming third.

Now to speak more particularly of the district we call New or Northern Ontario. I wish to treat this territory apart from and outside of the District of Patricia, for although the District of Patricia forms, I believe, an important part of the

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province and possesses possibilities of great importance, yet for the present time we have so many undeveloped minerals, timber and agricultural resources so much nearer, that it may be some time before we are called upon to develop those in the District of Patricia. So in the figures I shall give you, I do not propose to take much account of the District of Patricia. First, let us consider the area. We have in New Ontario, outside of the Great Lakes, 175,500 square miles, distributed as follows: west of Port Arthur, 41,500 square miles; east of Port Arthur and south of the Height of Land, 52,000 square miles; north of the Height of Land and east of Port Arthur, 82,000 square miles; making a total of 175,500 square miles. I divide it into these sections in order that you can perhaps get a better conception of the vastness of that great country. A great many people, particularly in Toronto, have the idea that Northern Ontario consists entirely of the Temiskaming region, and that when they have taken a trip up the line of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway to Cochrane and seen the section of country tributary to that line, they have seen Northern Ontario; whereas, they might travel a thousand miles west of that line and all the way through a country rich in natural resources awaiting development, and still be within the limits of Northern Ontario.

We have some 140,000,000 acres in Ontario, outside of the Great Lakes. Of this the province has surveyed 46,000,000 acres, leaving unsurveyed 94,000,000 acres. We have sold or alienated from the Crown only 24,000,000 acres, leaving 116,000,000 acres still in the Crown; and I understand from statistics compiled by the Department of Agriculture that we have under cultivation only 13,231,000 acres, or less than 10 per cent. of what still remains in the Crown in the right of the province.

Then what have we from an agricultural standpoint in that North Land? We have what is known as the Clay Belt, consisting of 20,000,000 acres; but that is not by any means all that we have from an agricultural standpoint. In the Districts of Nipissing, Sudbury, Manitoulin Island, Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora, we have millions of acres just as well adapted for agriculture, just as fertile, as in the Clay Belt or anywhere else in Ontario,—just as fertile, I believe, as can be found anywhere in the world to-day. In other words, we have an area in Northern Ontario capable of profitable cultivation two or three times as large in extent as that now under cultivation in the province.

That being so, let us look now at the agricultural production of the province. The value of Canada's field crops in 1911 amounted to \$565,711,600; the value of Ontario's field crops was in the same year \$193,260,000, or considerably more than one-third of the whole Dominion. The reports for the same year also show us that the field crops of the Province of Ontario were nearly \$13,000,000 greater in value than the field crops of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the two largest producing provinces of the West! When you stop to think of that, that the field crops of Ontario are worth over twelve million dollars more than the combined production of the two largest prairie provinces, what will the result be when all the tens of millions of acres of Ontario's arable lands are brought under cultivation for the benefit of mankind and of the world at large?

I can only, in the time at my disposal this afternoon, speak very hurriedly of the different points, so I pass on from the agricultural possibilities of Northern Ontario to deal with some of the others. I will speak for a moment of Ontario's minerals. The production of minerals in 1911 amounted to \$41,432,898, an increase over 1904 of \$29,860,251, or practically thirty million dollars. The silver production in 1911 amounted to \$15,949,019, or practically sixteen million dollars. Cobalt to date has produced 125,571,980 ounces of silver, yielding the mine owners, up to the end of 1911, \$64,317,352. In 1911 the Cobalt mines paid in dividends \$8,588,916. Up to the end of 1911 the total dividends paid by the Cobalt mines outside of the returns from privately owned mines and those owned by close corporations, amounted to \$30,391,095. We have something to boast of in our mineral output, particularly during the last six or seven years; and when I tell you that we have prospected over only a small portion of the province yet, and that we have millions upon millions of acres that have yet to hear the sound of the prospector's pick, I think you will get some idea of the possibilities of the province from a mineral point of view in the days to come. We are proud of our mineral production, placing Ontario as it does in the forefront of the mineral-producing countries of the world; one ounce in every seven of the silver that comes from the earth's crust comes from Cobalt.

And we have not only the silver camp at Cobalt, and a splendid gold camp at Porcupine; but besides these, there are deposits of gold or silver at Webbwood, Michipicoten, Port Arthur, Atikokan, Lake of the Woods, and in fact there are traces of these precious metals all the way from Quebec to

Manitoba. How many of these deposits will become paying mines, no one can tell; but no one who has studied the geology of that country will say that there are not many deposits outside of the deposits at Cobalt and at Porcupine that look exceedingly promising. And just as the Temiskaming & Northern Railway opened up the Cobalt and Porcupine camps, and the Canadian Pacific opened up the Sudbury nickel deposits, so will additional Cobalts and Porcupines and Sudburys undoubtedly be opened up in that great North land when other railroad lines and wagon roads are built there.

Speaking in connection with the Sudbury mines, it is a matter of satisfaction to think that 70 per cent. of the nickel of the world is produced in that camp.

We are very proud of our position as a mineral-producing province compared with other provinces. Canada's total mineral output in 1911 was \$105,000,000, while the value of the minerals produced in Ontario in 1911 was \$42,000,000, or 40 per cent. of the output of the Dominion. Omitting coal, of which none is produced by Ontario (except "white coal" of the Adam Beck type), Ontario produces more than one half of the mineral product of the Dominion, and in mining metals 65 per cent. And in 1912 so far the mineral production has far exceeded that of 1911. Take it for the first nine months, the total production is approximately \$25,000,000. The gold produced in the first nine months of 1912 is \$1,117,335, much more than twice as much as was ever produced in any previous 24 months in Ontario. And our silver production for this year, while slightly less in quantity than for the first nine months of 1911, exceeds it in value by \$1,114,000, this being caused by the increase in the value of silver this year over the year before.

So much for our mineral possibilities in Northern Ontario. Now let me speak for a moment of our timber resources. No one can overestimate the importance of the timber resources of Ontario and of the Dominion; and not only in the matter of the timber industry itself but in respect of its great impetus which it lends to almost every other industry and to the commerce of the country in general. Take the timber in the Crown. Our estimates, which are not at all complete, and which I am sure are far below the actual quantities, show that we have red and white pine on lands in the Crown amounting to 13,500,000,000 feet, worth at least \$10 a thousand feet, or in all, \$135,000,000. We have pine on licensed lands, (that is land upon which the timber has been sold to timber licensees, but in respect of which the Govern-

ment has an interest till the timber is cut,) amounting to at least 7,000,000,000 feet, which will yield to the Crown a dollar and a half a thousand, a total of \$10,500,000. We have at least 300,000,000 cords of pulpwood, 22½ million feet of which is capable of being sawn into lumber and worth at least \$225,000,000. So we have on a conservative basis an asset in our timber alone, looking at it from the standpoint of revenue, of at least \$370,500,000.

Look at what our timber has done for us in the way of revenue from Confederation; up to the end of October, 1910, the total revenue was \$44,044,165.15; or an average of over a million dollars a year.

That you may understand and appreciate better the importance of our timber assets in this country, I would call your attention to the fact that in 1911 the timber cut in Canada was valued at \$77,503,167, of which Ontario's share was \$30,011,009, or nearly one half the whole. The forest products of the Dominion in 1910 were estimated at \$166,000,000, or \$22 for every inhabitant of the whole Dominion. These figures surely demand from us the greatest attention to this important asset. These figures require, and I say frankly that great care and consideration should be exercised by the Government of the day to see that our timber is preserved and conserved as far as practicable for the future, at the same time giving the best and widest returns which can be afforded at the present day for our industries as well as from the standpoint of revenue. Something has been done along that line. One of the most important steps that has been taken is the establishment of forest reserves for the purpose of preserving the timber for future use, and preventing its destruction by cutting or fire or otherwise. We are greatly increasing these areas from time to time by acquiring licenses from lumbermen granted years ago, and from time to time this policy of adding portions of forest to the reserves will, I have no doubt, be acted upon.

Of these forest reserves, we have at the present time one at Temagami, containing 5,900 square miles, in which there stands about five billion feet of pine; one at Mississauga, comprising 3,000 square miles, containing three billion feet of pine; one at Nepigon of 7,300 square miles, containing ten to fifteen million cords of pulpwood; one at Sibley of 70 square miles, for the purpose of conserving the timber and preserving the beauty of the Cape; a small reserve called the Eastern Reserve, of 100 square miles, on which the pine is all cut away but where the new growth is being protected; the reserve at

Quetico, comprising 1,560 square miles, containing one and a half billion feet of red and white pine and two million cords of spruce; the Algonquin Park, comprising 2,066 square miles, and Rondeau Park, 8 square miles. In all our forest reserves and national parks have a total area of 20,004 square miles, and on them we think we have at least nine and a half billion feet of pine, fifteen million cords of pulpwood, and two million cords of spruce.

The conservation of our forest assets on the best and most practicable basis consistent with our present needs and requirements, constitutes one of the serious problems of the present day. At the present time I have added to the staff of my department an expert forester. (Applause.) One of his duties will be to study this question from every standpoint and give advice on the matter from every aspect. You must remember that you cannot have settlement and at the same time preserve our forests; you can't get settlement and grow crops of vegetables, wheat, etc., on the same ground as trees. Where lands are opened for settlement, you must utilize the timber to the best advantage, for a certain amount of the forest will have to be removed in order to make way for the settler and for civilization. One of the important problems, therefore, is how to utilize that forest in order to bring the best returns to the settler himself and the Province of Ontario as a whole.

With that end in view we have recently arranged for the establishment of a large pulp and paper plant at Abitibi, and the securing of other plants elsewhere, and we will try to utilize these so that the settler will have a market for his timber, and so that at the same time the industries employed in the manufacture of this timber will help in the building up of towns and villages and thus provide markets for the farmers' produce.

In the last sale made by the Province of Ontario in the Jocko country, one of the conditions of sale is that the lumberman must take care of the limbs and debris, destroying them as far as possible so as to prevent danger from fire. The Forester, Mr. Zavitz, is considering the question now as to how this can best be accomplished. This is one of the many problems that confront us.

Then there is a problem, too, as to the harvesting of the ripe timber without injury to the growing timber, for timber gets ripe just as grain or fruit or anything else does. One question we have to face and consider in the development of that great North Land is the keeping of the rough lands

which are unsuited for agriculture as timber reserves. We have to find the best method of harvesting the timber from these to the best advantage without injury to the growing crop of timber, so that an adequate supply may be maintained for the future.

That North country is a wonderful place in the matter of water transportation. The Transcontinental Railroad in its course crosses nine large navigable rivers, having a total length of over 1,795 miles, besides other smaller streams. We have, I think, at least a hundred navigable rivers from the mouth of the Moose River to the Nelson River. This all means that the pulpwood in this region will be floated down these streams to mills at or convenient to the crossing of the railway, and will there be manufactured into either pulp, paper or other wood products.

Now take a look at the importance of the splendid water-powers we have in Northern Ontario. Perhaps no other country in the world is so blessed with hydro-electric power as we are in that great North Land. One of the engineers of my department, Mr. Rorke, estimates that within 100 miles either way from the National Transcontinental Railway over the height of land there is possible of development 2,000,000 horse power. He has made a computation of the possibilities of this asset, and he says, that power from coal costs \$25 to \$150 per h.p., and estimating the energy in the territory to which I have referred at \$50 to \$75 per h.p. per annum, we have a potential asset in these rivers per annum of \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000. Who can estimate the importance of the power I have just spoken of in the development of that North country? But not only have we power upon the rivers I have referred to, but hydraulic power is abundant everywhere in that North country from one end to the other. Take Rainy Lake, the Lake of the Woods and the rivers flowing out of them, and we have possibilities for power development almost rivalling Niagara itself. Who can estimate the part hydro-electric power will play in the development of Ontario in the future? Much has been accomplished in the way of hydro-electric development in the past five or ten years, but what will the next ten or fifteen years show in this direction? It is no great stretch of imagination to think of the time when we shall not only see our pulp and paper mills run by electricity as they are to-day, our factories operated by electricity as they are to-day, our smelters and concentrators run by electricity as they are to-day, our streets and city homes lighted by electricity as they are to-day, but

when we shall see it used to heat and light the settler's home, to cut the settler's trees, to saw the settler's lumber, to stump and plow the settler's land, to cut and thresh the settler's grain, to milk the settler's cows, to churn his butter and bake his bread. (Laughter.) All these things and more will, I believe, be performed in the future by electricity, the great "white coal" that use does not exhaust.

I have only touched on that great North Land with its unlimited resources, but I have told you a little about its wealth in timber, about its agricultural possibilities, about its minerals and about its abundance of cheap power. What does it mean when all these materials and power are utilized? Does it not mean that the North is destined in the future to become one of the greatest manufacturing centres of the whole North American Continent? When the resources of that country are developed as they will be, undoubtedly, it will no longer be sparsely settled, but a hub of industry. The "backbone," as that section of country between North Bay and Winnipeg has been called, will no longer be a great barrier between the East and the West, but in railway tonnage, if not in population itself, it will outstrip both East and West, helping to bind the great East and the greater West.

Some progress has already been made towards the development of that country and its resources. Look at the many industries already established in Northern Ontario. There are pulp and paper mills now at the Sault, at Espanola and Sturgeon Falls; one nearly completed at Dryden; one under construction at Fort Frances, and arrangements are completed for one at Iroquois Falls. There are smelters, concentrators, mills and mining plants of different kinds at Port Arthur, the Sault, Sudbury, Coniston, Cobalt, Porcupine and Midland. Consider the benefits of these plants at the Sault and Sudbury, for instance, to the province as a whole. Take the Lake Superior Corporation, one of the heads of which I am pleased to see sitting beside me. With its pulp, paper and steel industries, to-day it is employing an army of ten thousand men, paying in wages more than \$6,000,000 a year. The Sudbury mines and mining plants employ thousands, and their payrolls run into the millions. What does that mean not only to the Sault and Sudbury but to the whole Province of Ontario? It surely means that the province at large must be benefited by these industries. In other words, it means a splendid consuming market for the farmer and manufacturer alike, building up the whole agricultural life of this country. What is true of the plants at Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie

is true in a greater or less extent of the plants at Espanola and Sturgeon Falls, Dryden and elsewhere, and will be true of other plants now under construction. These are some of the signs of development, and we hope to have in the near future industries stretching from one side to the other across that North land.

Let us now consider what has been done and what is now doing in the matter of railroad construction in that country, a most important factor in the development of any country. The only railway we had there until recently was the Canadian Pacific, and when it was built the resources of the North country were not thought of. What the Canadian Pacific was seeking was the location of a through line of railway from East to West, in the place where construction was easiest and cheapest, without regard to the development of the country through which it passed. This line consequently follows practically the height of land between Lakes Huron and Superior and Hudson Bay, the most barren and God-forsaken country in that whole North land. What timber there was in that territory was burnt off long ago, and except for what minerals there may be there, that part of the country is totally unproductive. But only a few miles to the South are the fertile and well-timbered valleys of splendid rivers flowing into Lake Superior; while thirty or forty miles to the North is the Clay Belt, watered with other splendid streams flowing into Hudson Bay. Now we are getting additional railways to develop these lands and open them up. Besides the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, which runs through that country 253 miles from North Bay to Cochrane, there are the Canadian Pacific Railway just spoken of, running 1,000 miles through Northern Ontario; the National Transcontinental, for 761 miles through the Clay Belt; the Canadian Northern, which for over a thousand miles—1,043 is the exact mileage, will traverse the Southerly portion of the Clay Belt; the Algoma Central, from the Sault to the Transcontinental, 300 miles; the Michipicoten Branch, 36 miles; and the Algoma Eastern, from Little Current to Sudbury, 60 miles; making a total of 3,453 miles constructed and under construction. Who can estimate the great impetus all these lines will give to the development of that country when all are in operation and directly interested in the building up of the country through which they run?

Already we have done considerable in the settlement of this country. Five years ago there were, I am told, not more than five thousand people in Temiskaming; to-day there are

70,000 to 80,000. Many of these no doubt are engaged in mining, but during the present year at four Crown Land Agencies in the Temiskaming region, at Cochrane, New Liskeard, Matheson and Englehart, the agents have sold 212,000 acres of land, settling on them over 1,300 settlers,—1,372 is the exact figures, a creditable showing up to date for the present year. Think what may be the possibilities in the future of that country when all the agencies I have referred to are at work in different ways and all vitally interested in helping to develop and bring that land to the position Providence intended it should occupy.

As to the fertility and productiveness of the agricultural sections of that country, no one here, I think, has any doubt whatever. Some of you have seen the magnificent farm exhibit in the car that has been travelling about the country. All of you have heard statements made from time to time on this subject by responsible men, who have personally investigated the facts, and you have seen a little in visits you have taken, but its productiveness is beyond all question or doubt. Permit me to refer you on this subject to Mr. J. F. Whitson, who has been placed in charge of the opening up of roads through the North; and as he is not a politician he will not exaggerate, (laughter) but I know he will tell you a wonderful story of that country and its fertility. He will tell you he can pick out county after county as large as any in Old Ontario and without practically an acre of waste land. I have one explanation to make in that connection. At one meeting I made a statement that Mr. Whitson had told me about one man, seventy or eighty years of age, who had cleared and prepared for cultivation a farm up there; and after the meeting I overheard one man say, "Well, of all the cheerful liars I ever heard, that man Hearst beats them all. I could stand all he told us about the North, until he told us about all the acres that that old man cleared, and nobody could stand for that." So I have not repeated that story. (Laughter.)

You have sometimes heard that country spoken of as the Great North Land and this may have given you the idea that it was a place of almost perpetual cold. Nothing could be further from the fact. Cochrane lies south of Winnipeg, and much of what we call Northern Ontario lies south of the International boundary in the West. Mr. Whitson can tell you of the beautiful weather they are having in the country around Cochrane now. When coming down he found snow and cold only when he came to North Bay. He knew nothing

of it in the North where they were enjoying summer weather in the great banana belt. (Laughter.) That country is capable of producing all kinds of vegetables, and grain crops of all kinds. It is a land of wonderful richness. Clover grows luxuriantly, and the growing and marketing of clover and of timothy seed is fast becoming a great industry. The North will soon be the great source of supply of seeds of almost all kinds. As a fodder country it is unsurpassed, and it possesses everything to make it an ideal stock raising country. But spring and fall wheat, oats, barley and cereals of all kinds too are being largely cultivated. Oats falling from a horse's feed box this year grew to a height of 6 feet, 3 inches, with well-filled heads, while potato peelings, planted in July, developed into splendid tubers before the end of September. In Algoma there are as fine and as well-developed farms as in the County of York, producing crops of all kinds. St. Joseph's Island is peculiarly adapted for fruit raising and dairying. Strawberries grown in Algoma and sold in Winnipeg netted 10 cents per box to the producer.

I have here some potatoes grown 380 miles north of Port Arthur in the District of Patricia; they were harvested a little early or they would have been fine specimens; they were brought in by Mr. Tyrrell on his return trip from Port Nelson. He only paid \$1 a bushel for them. I sometimes wish I was living in Patricia instead of in the City of Toronto, when I see the bills for produce come in.

The Toronto Board of Trade, which has always taken a great interest in the North country, prepared a splendid report on it not long ago, in which a statistician says that the purchasing power of the territory from North Bay to Cochrane amounts to \$45,599,320 a year. So it is something to the manufacturers and the merchants of Toronto to help open up and develop that country.

Now, in conclusion, let me say that the Dominion of Canada has splendid assets from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Providence has rarely blessed any people with such opportunities and such resources as we possess. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have their splendid orchards, their timber, their fisheries, their coal and their iron. Quebec has her mighty St. Lawrence with her ever-expanding commerce and her agriculture. British Columbia has her fisheries, her fruit, her minerals, her scenery, and her timber. Alberta has her flocks and herds, her gas and coal. Saskatchewan and Manitoba have their millions of bushels of golden grain. But the old Banner Province of Ontario is the peer and the flower of

them all. It is splendidly located among the Provinces of the Dominion, combining in full measure the resources of them all, (except coal, and that is compensated for by the abundance of hydraulic power I have spoken of) and having for its greatest asset a splendid, well-nurtured, well-educated, God-fearing people, I believe, unsurpassed in any country on God's green earth!

The Province of Ontario must not only be the keystone of Confederation geographically and commercially, but intellectually as well. Thousands of people are pouring yearly into our land, foreigners from continental Europe and everywhere, many of them knowing nothing of free institutions or responsible Government. What duty does that bring to us? The duty of Canadians is to preach the gospel of free British institutions to these foreigners who come to our shores to make their homes here, so that this fair Dominion of ours may continue to have a splendid, free, and enlightened people, to make secure the intellectual and moral supremacy she enjoys to-day.

Look upon our assets; there are illimitable waterways to purify our physical life, to float 10,000 ships and to make us commercially great as the freedom of the seas made Great Britain great. There is electricity to light and heat our homes, to furnish transportation and turn the wheels of commerce. There is the priceless asset of scenery and the recreation grounds of the world; with an invigorating climate and a clear blue sky to breed men of dominance and power; with a foundation of population comprising the best blood of the Anglo-Saxon and allied races. But these splendid assets, and our unique situation bring both opportunity and responsibility; and to the citizens of Ontario is given a great duty, a splendid opportunity to work together for the development of the great resources to which I have referred, and make this Banner Province a vital force in the Dominion, cementing East to West, so that in the years to come we will know neither East nor West, North nor South, but a united Canada pulsating with intellectual and commercial vigor and force from the Atlantic to the Pacific, making our blest land of the maple not only a source of strength to but a dominating influence in that Empire that encircles the globe. I thank you.

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